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June 3, 1999
Contact: Pam Huber, huber@udayton.edu

For sources for stories concerning the June 15 American Film Institute special on CBS, *AFI's 100 Years ... 100 Stars*, you may be interested in two University of Dayton professors. One voted in the poll; the other champions an unlikely group of nominees.

FILM HISTORIAN CHOOSES CHAPLIN, BERGMAN AS TOP STARS

When it came time to cast his vote, film historian Tony Macklin let his admiration for more than talent guide his decision. He shouldered his task as a labor of love.

Ingrid Bergman and Charlie Chaplin topped his ballot for the American Film Institute's list of the top 50 stars. "If you're on a desert island, you have your romance and you have your humor. What else is there?"

Macklin, associate professor of English at the University of Dayton, especially likes the pair "because they fought the system. They were artists, personalities and they opposed politics. Anyone who stands against politicians and stands for art as they did gets my vote," he said. "While they were bigger than life, they were also life. They had a lasting credibility to them. They were myth and reality. They were human."

Rounding out his top five females are Marilyn Monroe, Judy Garland, Katharine Hepburn and Grace Kelly. For the top five males, he added John Wayne, Cary Grant, Humphrey Bogart and James Dean to his top choice.

A full story on Macklin and his views is enclosed.

For media interviews, contact **Tony Macklin** at (937) 299-6068 or via e-mail at macklin@checkov.hm.udayton.edu. From June 7 to 18, he can be reached in New Jersey only by calling (609) 398-8230.

CAN THE STOOGES MAKE THE CUT? ONLY WITH THE PUBLIC, SAYS PROFESSOR

If members of the public had been invited to vote, the Three Stooges might well have made the American Film Institute's list of the top 25 male stars, said Don Morlan, communication professor at the University of Dayton and nationally known expert on "the boys," as he calls them. But with critics and historians making the choices, the Stooges don't have much of a chance, he said.

The Three Stooges were included as one entry among the 250 male nominees determined by the AFI and sent to 1,800 selected voters.

"The historians and critics may fool me, but I don't think the Stooges will be chosen for their artistic qualities or their critical acclaim," Morlan said. "But with their popularity, I think if you allowed the public to choose, they'd be in the top 25."

Although the last of the Stooges died in the mid-1970s, the group still has two active fan clubs, regular time slots on cable television and a national convention that draws loyal fans. "Laurel and Hardy aren't on television, neither are Abbot and Costello or any of the comedians of that time except the Stooges," Morlan says. "Charlie Chaplin may make the list of top stars, but who ever watches him? Only when there's a rare movie of his on TV."

See the enclosed release for information about a recent study on the Three Stooges.

For media interviews, call **Don Morlan**, a film historian and expert in propaganda, in Wisconsin at (715) 479-5193 or by sending e-mail to Dbmorlan2s@aol.com.